

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, 14, 16-17 and 19-20 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 18 and 21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 14, 16-17 and 19-20 are amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented herein.

Applicant takes this opportunity to respectfully respond to the comments presented in the Advisory Action dated March 9, 2007.

Applicant notes that the Advisory Action asserts the presence of 35 U.S.C. §112 and art "problems". Applicant provides the following comments in response to the issues raised in the Advisory Action.

First, the Advisory Action states the feature "carbonaceous carbon fibers" lacks proper antecedent basis. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 12, 16-17 and 19-20 have been amended in a manner believed to provide the recited "carbonaceous carbon fibers" feature with proper antecedent basis.

The Advisory Action further asserts that Claim 1 does not clearly convey how the carbon matrix and synthetic resin binder combine to form a sliding element. Applicant has amended Claim 1 in a manner believed to clearly recite that the binder of synthetic resin is blended with the carbon matrix to form the fired preformed material that is included in the sliding element.

The Advisory Action also asserts that Claim 1 does not clearly convey where the carbonaceous carbon fibers are randomly scattered. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to clearly recite that the carbonaceous carbon fibers are scattered in the carbon matrix.

Additionally, the Advisory Action asserts the need for the Vickness hardness of

original Claim 2 to be incorporated into Claims 1 and 12 so as to overcome the prior art and place the application in better condition for allowance, pending an updated search, of course. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 12 to include the Vickness hardness feature referenced by the Advisory Action.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Preliminary Amendment addresses the issues and problems identified by the Advisory Action.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 108179-00036.**

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX LLP



Murat Ozgu
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372

1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: (202) 857-6000
MO/elp